

July/August 2015

IN THIS EDITION



Towne Players' youth theater campers bringing 'Shrek the Musical Jr.' to GPAC. See page 3.



Chamber's Connect conference slated for Aug. 13. See page 4.

TOWN HALL CALENDAR

Aug. 3: Town Council regular meeting (7 p.m.)

Aug. 18: Town Council regular meeting (7 p.m.)

Aug. 25: Town Council work session (6 p.m.)

Meetings are in the Council Chambers in building B at Town Hall, 900 Seventh Ave. Town Council regular meetings are recorded and broadcast (not live) on GTVII (Time Warner 11, AT&T U-verse 99).



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GARNER UPDATE

Vol. 79, No. 85

TOWN OF GARNER BOND PROGRAM



Going to the Dogs

Turnout (for four-legged and two-legged creatures) was impressive for the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department's grand opening of the North Garner Dog Park at Garner Recreational Park (221 E. Garner Road) on June 13. The park, built with bonds approved by voters in 2013, is open 8 a.m. to dark seven days a week. A second dog park is planned for Lake Benson Park. Learn more about the Garner Bond Program at garnerbonds.com.

PRCR Administrative Offices Move to Garner Senior Center

In preparation for the new Town Hall and Indoor Recreation Center construction projects (both part of the Garner Bond Program), Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources (PRCR) administrative offices have relocated to Garner Senior Center (209 E. Garner Road).

A staff member will remain at the PRCR Town Hall location until Aug. 28 to give the public a 30-day

transition period to become aware of the office relocation. After Aug. 28, registrations and rentals will no longer be taken at Town Hall. Citizens can visit PRCR administrative staff at their temporary Garner Senior Center location Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., to register for programs and rent shelters or facilities. Program registrations and shelter

Please see PRCR, page 2



You can follow PRCR on Twitter (@GarnerPRCR).



A Message from the Mayor



Watch the mayor's award-winning "Great People in Garner" on demand at youtube.com/townofgarner.

All you have to do is drive past all the new development at White Oak and highway 70, and you can



stacking up.

You can learn more about the growth at the Garner Chamber of

Commerce's annual Connect & Plug in the Future conference, to be held **Thursday, Aug. 13** at the Grand Marquise Ballroom. You can find out more about that event and how to register for it on page 4 of this newsletter.

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Garner is still a tight-knit community despite the growth—and we will remain that way. One big reason for that is the community-based events Garner has throughout the year. If you look on the next page, you'll see that we have a couple of those events coming up. First is National Night Out on **Tuesday,**

Aug. 4. Then later in the week, the award-winning Towne Players' summer youth theater camp will put on its production of "Shrek the Musical Jr." I am so proud of what these young people do every year. This program is a big reason why we were named an All-America City in 2013.

Come on out and see one of the "Shrek" shows **Aug. 6-8.** I promise you'll have a great time.

Ronnie S. Williams

Ronnie S. Williams

PRCR

continued from page 1

reservations also can still be made online at garnernc.gov. You can also register for programs and rent shelters or facilities at White Deer Park and Avery Street Recreation Center.

PRCR administrative staff will move into their new permanent home, the Indoor Recreation Center, upon completion of that facility in the summer of 2017.

The other departments currently at Town Hall will continue the exodus in September, when the Police Department and Information Technology move into the new police station at 912 7th Ave. In October, Planning and Inspections will move temporarily into the police annex building at 400 Aversboro Road. Sometime between mid-November and early December, the remaining Town Hall staff will move into swing space at 914 7th Ave. The new Town Hall, to be built on the existing Town Hall campus at 900 7th Ave., is expected to be completed in the first part of 2017.

Town Council Approves \$28.47 Million Budget

The Town Council voted 4-0 (Council Member Ken Marshburn was absent) to approve an operating budget for fiscal year 2015-16 at the June 16 regular meeting.

The \$28.47 million budget includes a planned 1.75-cent property-tax increase to help pay for the ongoing bond program overwhelmingly approved by Garner voters in a March 2013 referendum.

The tax increase approved for this fiscal year, together with last fiscal year's increase of one cent, completes the increases needed for the 2013 bond program. The combined 2.75-cent increase will be dedicated to bond program debt service throughout the life of the debt service (approximately the next 20-25 years) and also be used to build a capital reserve fund to offset other future capital projects.

The Town's property-tax rate

now stands at 51.75 cents per \$100 valuation.

In FY15-16, the Town's revenue savings plan, first implemented last fiscal year, will dedicate a portion of new revenue growth to a capital reserve and thus help lessen the impact of the bond program on the Town's budget.

The \$28.47 million budget is a 7 percent increase over the FY14-15 adopted budget.

The FY15-16 budget includes an annualizing of the Town's street resurfacing program and vehicle and equipment replacement programs. It also includes \$140,000 to contract out maintenance of the median and other grassy areas along U.S. 70 in Garner.

Budget documents can be read online at garnernc.gov/Publications/Default.aspx.



Garner Again Named Playful City USA

For the second consecutive year, Garner has been honored as a Playful City USA by KaBOOM!, a national non-profit dedicated to preserving and expanding play opportunities for America's children.

In partnership with the Humana Foundation, KaBOOM! this year honored 241 cities, towns and counties across the country for making their communities more playable.



KaBOOM! is dedicated to giving all young people—particularly those growing up in poverty—the childhood they deserve filled with balanced and active play so they can thrive.

"We are honored to be recognized as a 2015 Playful City USA," Gar-

ner Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Director Sonya Shaw said. "Our parks system is truly one that provides numerous opportunities for our citizens to be actively engaged in health and wellness activities."

The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department noted several recent developments that are making Garner even more playable, including 1) the opening of the town's first public dog park (North Garner Dog Park at Garner Recreational Park, 221 E. Garner Road), 2) construction of dugout covers and new concession stands and restrooms at Garner Recreational Park and South Garner Park, and 3) lower prices and increased enrollment in the department's main summer camp, Camp Kaleidoscope.

The mission of the Garner Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department is to improve the

quality of life in Garner by offering a diverse system of parks, facilities, programs and cultural resources. The Town's parks, recreation facilities and the Garner Performing Arts Center offer superior activities—including fitness classes, athletics, camps, cultural arts and special events—for citizens ages 2 to 55 and over.

For more information about the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department, visit garnernc.gov, or call the department's main line at (919) 773-4442. You can also join Garner Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources—and a number of its amenities such as White Deer Park, Garner Performing Arts Center and the Garner Senior Center—on Facebook and Twitter.

For more information on the Playful City USA program, visit playfulcityusa.org.

Garner National Night Out Events Planned for Aug. 4

The Garner Police Department, in association with the National Association of Town Watch and Target, will hold the 32nd Annual National Night Out against crime on **Tuesday, Aug. 4** from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The Garner Police Department will again partner with Target of Garner in hosting an event at the Target store at Garner Towne Square, 2700 Timber Drive.

Garner Police, Garner Volunteer Fire and Rescue, Inc., Wake County EMS and other public safety agencies will be on hand to talk about crime prevention and ways to avoid unintentional injury. Target and other local businesses will be providing food and games for the whole family.

Several Garner neighborhoods are also planning to have their own events. Everyone is encouraged to leave outside lights on, lock their doors and get together with neighbors to recognize National Night Out. Along with the traditional outside lights and front porch vigils, most cities and towns celebrate National Night Out with a variety of special events such as block parties, cookouts, parades, festivals, visits from local officials and law enforcement, safety fairs and youth events.

For more information on National Night Out, visit natw.org. To learn more about Garner events, contact Garner Police Sgt. Chris Adams at (919) 772-8810 or cadams@garnernc.gov.



You can follow Garner PD on Twitter (@GarnerPolice).

Towne Players
OF Garner

SHrek Jr. The Musical

Music by Jeanine Tesori
Book and Lyrics by David Lindsay-Abaire
Based on the DreamWorks Animation Motion Picture and the book by William Steig

Directed by Beth Honeycutt

August 6, 7 & 8 at 8 pm
August 8 at 2 pm

Garner Performing Arts Center - 742 W. Garner Road
Open House & 10 minutes before show doors open on the
Saturday night. All additional information is on the
program. Call (919) 773-4442 for more info.
Phone: (919) 773-4442 Fax: (919) 773-4442 - www.towneplayersonline.org

Young Thespians Presenting Musical

The Towne Players summer youth theater camp is presenting "Shrek the Musical Jr." **Aug. 6-8** at Garner Performing Arts Center. Shows are at 8 p.m. each night with an additional 2 p.m. matinee show on Saturday, Aug. 8. Tickets are \$15 and are available at the door.



Downtown Program Earns Reaccreditation

Downtown Garner's Main Street Program has received 2015 national accreditation for its performance in 2014. It is the fifth consecutive year that downtown Garner's Main Street Program has received accreditation.

Accreditation standards include fostering strong public-private partnerships, securing an operating budget, tracking programmatic progress and actively preserving historic buildings. The National Main Street Center, a subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, accredited 35 North Carolina communities for meeting performance standards this year.

More information about downtown Garner and the Garner Revitaliza-



(From left) Council Member Kathy Behringer, Downtown Development Manager Mari Howe and Garner Revitalization Association Board of Directors Elmo Vance and Jason Waters pose with the Main Street Program accreditation certificate at the July 7 Town Council meeting.

tion Association can be found at downtowngarner.com.

Privilege License Tax No Longer to be Levied

A state law that took effect July 1 bars local governments from levying the privilege license tax. This means that new and existing businesses are no longer required to obtain or renew a privilege license. As a result, renewal notices will not be mailed for current year licenses expiring on June 30, 2015.

The business community should be aware that other types of permitting remain in place. Here is a summary of those types of permitting:

- Businesses that hold North Carolina ABC Commission permits still must apply for their annual beer/wine permit.
- Itinerant merchants still are required to submit application permits to the Town.

- Taxi businesses still are required to obtain permits and renew them annually.
- Precious metal dealers still are required to obtain permits and renew them annually.

In addition, all new businesses still must obtain zoning compliance through the Town's Planning Department prior to opening.

The Town is in the process of implementing a business registration program. Businesses will receive information and notices once the program is in place.

For more information, please contact Town finance specialist Donna Wigal at (919) 773-4411 or at dwigal@garnernc.gov.

CONNECT
& plug in the future

Sign Up Now for Annual Chamber Conference

The Garner Chamber of Commerce's annual Connect & Plug in the Future conference—a half-day event focusing on economic development topics affecting Garner—will be held **Thursday, Aug. 13** at the Grand Marquise Ballroom, located at 205 New Fidelity Court.

The event starts at 10:30 a.m. with a bus tour that stops at the new police station at 912 7th Ave. (under construction), South Garner High School (also under construction) and the new restaurants at White Oak. Lunch and conference registration will then be at noon.

After lunch, a panel of experts will offer a look at the future of Wake County transit. Then, former Garner Magnet High principal Drew Cook (now an administrator for the Wake County Public School System) will be joined by school board representatives for a discussion on Garner schools. A third session will cover growth in Garner, including the new development at White Oak.

The day closes with a reception and dinner to welcome new Raleigh Chamber CEO Tim Giuliani.

The \$89 registration includes bus tour, lunch, conference and dinner (\$79 for those not doing the bus tour). To register, call the Garner Chamber at (919) 772-6440 or register online at garnerchamber.com.



You can follow Downtown Garner on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter (@Downtown Garner).